

Bucks Head To O’Gorman Looking For Semifinal Berth



YHS GAMEDAY

Yankton (7-3) at S.F. O’Gorman (6-3)

6:30 p.m., McEaney Field, Sioux Falls

LAST MEETING: O’Gorman ended Yankton’s 2011 season with a 54-14 decision in the Class 11AA quarterfinals.

LAST WEEK: Yankton opened the 2012 post-season with a 44-20 rout of Aberdeen Central.

O’Gorman received a first-round bye, thanks to a strength-of-schedule tiebreaker over Yankton. The Knights ended the regular season with a sixth straight win, a 29-15 decision over Sioux Falls Lincoln.

NEXT UP: The winner of tonight’s game advances to face the winner of the Washington-Brookings game in the semifinals on Saturday. The higher seed will host the game.

BY CHRIS RILEY
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Yankton will face a familiar postseason foe in their quarterfinal matchup tonight in Sioux Falls as the Bucks travel to McEaney Field to take on longtime rivals, the O’Gorman Knights.

The Knights (6-3) earned a first-round bye and have had the past 11 days to get healthy in anticipation for a rematch of last year’s quarterfinal game, won by O’Gorman 54-14.

Yankton, 7-3, jumped out to a 38-6 lead against Aberdeen Central last week in their playoff opener before winning 44-20 to advance to the quarterfinals.

The two squads have faced each other a total of 12 times in postseason play since South Dakota instituted a playoff system in 1981, which each team earning six victories thus far.

As of late however, the rivalry has been one-sided in favor of the Knights. The 1999 Class 11AA state championship game was the last time Yankton has defeated the Sioux Falls Catholic school.

“We’ve got to get back on track,” Bucks coach Arlin Likness said. “It has been a while since Yankton has beat O’Gorman. They’ve got a good streak on us.”

In last year’s meeting, the Bucks turned the ball over five times (three fumbles, two interceptions). That is something that must be corrected if Yankton hopes to earn a semifinal berth.

“We need to take care of the football,” Likness added. “The plan is to have the offense control the ball so the defense isn’t out there all the time.”

Earning that first-round bye was big as O’Gorman has spent the entire season getting healthy after

an 0-3 start, which included losses to undefeated Brandon Valley and Washington and also saw the Knights lose to Roosevelt.

“We have battled injuries all year – just like Yankton, and have some of those players back,” Knights coach Steve Kueter said.

After the 0-3 start, O’Gorman dominated the remainder of their schedule, finishing with six straight wins — including four shutouts.

“We have gradually improved on the offensive line and got some experience on offense,” Kueter added.

Yankton senior standout Kellen Soulek has no doubt that the Bucks can come away with the victory.

“I think we have a good shot,” Soulek said. “We can match up with them on the line and we’ve got to come in and show (O’Gorman) that we are there.”

A trio of Bucks will likely be missing from action tonight due to knee

injuries. Sophomore Levi Davis and seniors C.J. Warren and Logan Van Winkle are not expected to be able to play according to coach Likness.

With Davis and Warren out, Jordan Lightner and Evan Schroeder will be called on to step up even more at running back and line-backer. Van Winkle’s production at tackle will also need to be accounted for.

Likness expects a classic power battle from O’Gorman, and said his team must be focused all game long.

“They (O’Gorman) will play with a lot of heart and intensity,” Likness said. “We have to match that down for down if we want to stay in the game.”

Game time is 6:30 p.m. at McEaney Field on the campus of O’Gorman High School.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Yankton Puts Eight On All-ESD Team

BY CHRIS RILEY
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With a 6-1 Eastern South Dakota Conference record this season, the Yankton Bucks proved week after week that they were a force to be reckoned with in the 85-year old league.

That competitiveness earned the Bucks seven individual placings on the 2012 ESD All-Conference football team.

Senior lineman Kellen Soulek was a repeat selection while six of his teammates earned their first all-conference awards.

“It shows that we have a lot of individual talent and can come together to win games,” Soulek said.

In addition to Soulek, seniors Michael Rucker (quarterback), Troy Hunhoff (tight end), Dustin Hopper (defensive line), James Hisek (line-backer) and juniors J.J. Hejna (defensive back) and Lane Sawatzke (kicker) earned selections, as voted on by coaches of all eight ESD schools.

“I was very happy to get that many kids selected,” Yankton head coach Arlin Likness said. “I think it might be the most kids that we have ever had.”

Soulek’s repeat selection was a no-doubter as numerous opposing coaches mentioned him as their biggest game-planning challenge week after week in preparation for the Bucks.

“Kellen is a solid player with good size and speed,” Likness added. “He’s stepped up as a physical leader and I think that carries over to his teammates.”

Rucker, who became Yankton’s all-time passing yardage leader at the beginning of the year, led the Bucks on and off the field.

“Michael is one of those cool and calm leaders,” Likness said. “You can count on him to get something done. He’s a very unselfish player and will do whatever it takes to win.”

Hunhoff started at tight end as a sophomore and then moved to tackle last season before switching back to tight end for his senior year. He also handled the majority of punting duties earlier this season before an injury, averaging nearly 46 yards per punt.

One constant throughout Yankton’s selections is that most of the players chosen saw action on both sides of the ball this season, including defensive back selection J.J. Hejna who also saw extensive action at wide receiver as the season wore on.

“J.J. kind of came into his own this year,” Likness said. “He got more o play because of his size and ability to go after the ball. He became more of a defensive captain and leads the team in tackles & interceptions.”

Despite an injury suffered during the opening kickoff of a week five game, junior Lane Sawatzke still earned a selection at kicker.

“Lane was off to a very good start with 16-18 on extra points and a very good kickoff average before he got hurt,” Likness said. “He was on his way to being an all-conference selection when he got hurt so it’s nice that we was chosen.”

Yankton’s seven selections was third only to league champion Brandon Valley who placed 11 individuals and Pierre who placed eight on the all-conference team.

“It’s a big honor to be selected because there are a lot of great players in the ESD,” Soulek added.

You can follow Chris Riley on Twitter at twitter.com/ChrisCRiley

Midland Powers Past Lancers

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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With No. 6 Hastings looming on Tuesday, the Midland Warriors wanted to shake off a recent trend of slow starts.

The 22nd-ranked Warriors did just that on the way to a 25-8, 25-12, 25-20 victory over Mount Marty in Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball action on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

The Warriors crushed the ball at a .429 clip and recorded 11 service aces as they improved to 19-8 overall and 10-3 in the GPAC.

“We had not gotten off to good starts. We focused on that all week in practice,” said Midland head coach Paul Giesselmann. “Our first server (Rebecca Gradoville) got things going and we were able to keep it going. Mount Marty has some kids that can hit, and we wanted to put pressure on them so that they couldn’t get in system.”

Ashley Wheeler finished with four ace serves for the Warriors, with Jordyn Bymers coming off the bench for three ace serves. Offensively, Keri Lunz pounded out 11 kills in 14 attempts, while Mackenzie Scheef and Elaine Kramer each had 10 kills. Megan Farley finished with 29 assists.

“I was really happy with our offense,” Giesselmann said. “We tend to have too many unforced errors, but we were really sharp in all facets of the game.”

Defensively, Gradoville had seven digs, with Farley and Molly Pettit recording five each.

Seniors Kate Lingscheit and



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty middle hitter Lexie Branson attacks against a pair of Midland blockers during their Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball match on Saturday at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena. Midland, the 22nd-ranked team in the NAIA, swept the Lancers 25-8, 25-12, 25-20. MMC travels to Northwestern on Tuesday.

Bell Blasts Indiana State Past South Dakota

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Shakir Bell rushed for 150 yards and a pair of touchdowns and caught a 25-yard scoring pass, helping Indiana State roll to a 45-14 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

Indiana State (7-2, 5-1 Missouri Valley) also had two interception returns for TDs – a 25-yarder by Johnny Towalid and a 52-yarder by Donovan Lane.

Mike Perish threw a pair of scoring passes for Indiana State and Kevin Earl threw for 101 yards and a TD for South Dakota (1-7, 0-5).

Lucas Hileman was a significant factor for Indiana State. Three of his four punts were downed inside the 20-yard line, limiting South Dakota’s field position.

SOUTH DAKOTA		0	0	7	7	— 14
INDIANA ST. 45, SOUTH DAKOTA 14		21	7	10	7	— 45
First Quarter		InSt—Bell 2 run (Fritschle kick), 8:34.				

InSt—Mardis 6 pass from Perish (Fritschle kick), 5:14.		InSt—Towalid 25 interception return (Fritschle kick), :25.	
Second Quarter		InSt—Bell 4 run (Fritschle kick), 8:20.	
Third Quarter		SDak—Sanders 5 run (Robb kick), 12:14.	
InSt—FG Fritschle 27, 7:35.		InSt—Bell 25 pass from Perish (Fritschle kick), :27.	
Fourth Quarter		InSt—Layne 52 interception return (Fritschle kick), 10:42.	
SDak—Powell 11 pass from Perish (Robb kick), 7:19.		A—5,224.	

	SDak	InSt
First downs.....	18	18
Rushes-yards.....	29-100	44-181
Passing.....	136	113
Comp-Att-Int.....	17-30-2	9-17-0
Return Yards.....	0	136
Punts-Avg.....	7-37.1	4-44.0
Fumbles-Lost.....	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards.....	5-53	6-66
Time of Possession.....	28:14	31:46

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING—South Dakota, Sims 12-81, Sanders 6-26, Terry 2-0, Vander Maten 9-(minus 7), Indiana St., Bell 23-150, Cheesborough 9-19, Dyer 6-16, Wozniak 3-5, Team 2-(minus 4), Johnson 1-(minus 5).	
PASSING—South Dakota, Earl 11-16-0-101, Vander Maten 6-14-2-35, Indiana St., Perish 9-17-0-113.	
RECEIVING—South Dakota, Terry 7-60, Powell 5-53, Sanders 4-13, Burns 1-10, Indiana St., Mardis 3-27, O’Leary 2-30, Lawste 2-24, Bell 1-25, Dyer 1-7.	

Jackrabbits, Huskers Earn Big Home Wins

BROOKINGS (AP) — Austin Sumner threw for five touchdowns, Zach Zenner ran for another and South Dakota State lit up the scoreboard in the second quarter Saturday with a 41-28 victory over Youngstown State.

Sumner completed 19 of 28 passes for 351 yards and five touchdowns, three of which came in the 28-point second quarter for the Jackrabbits. Zenner carried the ball 17 times for 87 yards and a second quarter touchdown.

South Dakota State (6-2, 4-

1 Missouri Valley) led 41-7 after Sumner found Aaron Rollin for a 49-yard touchdown strike only 1:37 into the third quarter. It was the fifth different receiver found by Sumner for a touchdown.

Rollin had three catches for 108 yards and the score.

Youngstown State (4-4, 1-4) put up a fight, scoring 21 unanswered points to end the game. Will Shaw caught 10 balls for 120 yards and a touchdown in the loss for the Penguins.

S. DAK. STATE 41, YOUNGSTOWN ST. 28
YOUNGSTOWN ST.....7 0 7 14 — 28
S. DAKOTA STATE.....7 28 6 0 — 41

First Quarter	
SDSt—Daughlers 6 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 11:16.	
YSU—Hess 15 run (Brown kick), :36.	
Second Quarter	
SDSt—Kool 50 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 11:51.	
SDSt—Hubert 13 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), 9:47.	
SDSt—Zenner 8 run (Syrovatka kick), 8:08.	
SDSt—Schneider 17 pass from Sumner (Syrovatka kick), :03.	
Third Quarter	
SDSt—Rollin 49 pass from Sumner (kick failed), 13:23.	
YSU—Bryan 5 pass from Hess (Brown kick), 5:05.	
Fourth Quarter	
YSU—Stanton 19 interception return (Brown kick), 14:49.	
YSU—Shaw 21 pass from Hess (Brown kick), 3:28.	

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Soccer: Kangaroos End Season For Coyotes, Senior Duo

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Having played a combined 11,000 minutes on a soccer field, the end came suddenly for Erin Bello and Rachel Greene.

After four years, two conferences, two coaches and 11 wins, their careers were over.

The senior duo for the University of South Dakota were honored prior to Saturday afternoon’s Summit League soccer game against Kansas City, and then battled with their younger teammates to a 1-0 season-ending loss.

“All of a sudden I looked over at the scoreboard and there was one minute left, and it hit me, ‘This is my last minute ever,’” Greene said. “It felt really weird.”

Since 2009, the tandem in the midfield have been a mainstay in the USD lineup. Bello ranks first all-time in school history with 6,035 minutes played, followed by Greene at 5,215 minutes.

Through all the hurdles and facing another sub-par season, it was still hard for them to grasp the end, Bello said.

“This was actually pretty strange. Last year our senior day wasn’t the very last game, so it wasn’t quite as emotional,” she said.

“This one there were definitely emotions coming out.”

Saturday afternoon had plenty of nail-biting and frustrating moments for the Coyotes, who finish the season at 2-13-3 overall and 1-6-1 in the Summit League.

Kansas City, a team also nearing the end of a sub-par campaign, had the edge in shots on goal (9-3) and total shots (14-10)

The only goal came in the 36th minute when Kansas City’s Taylor Bare tapped in an easy score after USD goalkeeper Jen Schaefer missed on a dive.

“I’m still pretty bitter about that goal, as a defender,” Greene said. “It shouldn’t have happened. But we had chances all game to tie it up.”

Among those chances was a shot wide by junior Jenny Teslow with 15:20 left (eliciting a loud cheer by the crowd, who didn’t see the shot miss) and a header that went wide with 1:10 remaining.

From there, the focus turned back to Bello and Greene.

“They were saying to the group just now that they’ve seen such improvement,” said head coach Mandy Green, who has guided the duo over the last three years of their career.

“We just need to keep at it and enjoy every day, then the success

will come.”

It’s been a long, tough journey for the Coyotes since joining the Summit League last fall. In conference games over those two years, USD is 2-13-2 — the one victory this year coming in dramatic fashion at North Dakota State.

The Coyotes had the nation’s youngest roster in 2011, with 21 freshmen, and followed that up this season with 10 freshmen. Green said she doesn’t expect near that many next fall, with only three high school commitments to this point.

“When you can actually have numbers and have girls pushing each other for spots, it makes a big difference,” said Bello, who leaves with the ninth-most goals (14) in school history.

Another bright spot for the Coyotes down the line will be next year’s schedule. USD will have home games with Iowa State, Northern Iowa and Loyola Chicago, and will also play Northern Illinois at a game in Brookings.

“I’m extremely happy with how far we’ve come,” Green said. “We still have a ways to go to close that gap, but we’ll keep after it.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

South Dakota forward Jenny Teslow (16) moves the ball toward the goal past two Kansas City defenders in a scoring attempt that didn’t succeed during Saturday soccer action in Vermillion. The Coyotes lost their season finale to the Kangaroos 1-0.